LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~flanged member~~ joint according to claim [[1]] 11, wherein said first load transferring surface is concave over the entire extension thereof in the radial direction.

3. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~flanged member~~ joint according to claim [[1]] 11, wherein said first load transferring surface comprises a ~~varyingly~~ concave surface including an inner portion and an outer portion positioned distal in the radial direction with respect to the inner portion, the inner portion having a radius of curvature different from the radius of curvature of the outer portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~flanged member~~ joint according to claim [[1]] 11, said first flanged member further comprising an internal axial through opening, said first flanged member load transferring surface having said innermost abutment point configured to abut against the ~~corresponding second~~ end surface of said second flanged member, said abutment point being situated nearest in the radial direction, to said opening, the concavity of the first flanged member load transferring surface extending all the way in to said abutment point.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~flanged member~~ joint according to claim [[1]] 11, wherein said first flanged member load transferring surface has said innermost abutment point configured to abut against the ~~corresponding second~~ end surface of said second flanged member at an internal axial through opening of said second flanged member, said innermost abutment point being situated nearest in the radial direction, to said opening, the concavity of the first flanged member load transferring surface extending all the way in to said abutment point.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~flanged member~~ joint according to claim [[1]] 11, wherein a conceived straight line that connects ~~said~~ a proximal point of said ~~first~~ load transferring surface of the first flanged member, in the radial direction, with ~~said~~ a distal point thereof, in the radial direction, has a length Lx and the concavity of said first load transferring surface has a maximum depth Dk in relation to a conceived plane surface produced by said line, which depth Dk is of the order of 0.01 %–2 % of Lx.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~flanged member~~ joint according to claim [[1]] 11, wherein ~~at least a part of~~ the first flanged member further comprises:

a non-flanged end oriented transverse to a longitudinal axis of the first flanged member; and

a transition area[[,]] positioned between ~~a surface of the first flanged end directed away from said first end surface~~ the at least one flanged end and the non-flanged end ~~a part of the first flanged member that is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the first flanged member~~,

wherein at least a part of a transition area is shaped as ~~a substantially~~ an elliptical area.

11. (Previously Presented) A joint comprising a first flanged member and a second flanged member adapted for a pressure equipment device, said first and second flanged members each comprising:

at least one flanged end having an end surface comprising a load transferring surface through which forces are transferred when connecting together said first and second flanged members in an assembled state,

wherein, for the first flanged member, at least a portion of the load transferring surface in an unstressed condition is concave in a radial direction, such that the at least the portion of the load transferring surface is defined by a concave curve function, said load transferring surface is concave in the radial direction over at least an area that is subjected to deformation when the first flanged member is assembled together with said second flanged member, and any first point on the at least the portion of said load transferring surface and any second point of the at least the portion of said load transferring surface directly distal to the first point meeting a plane inclined in the radial direction of said first flanged member,

wherein said load transferring surface has an outermost abutment point in a cross section of the first flanged member, the outermost abutment point configured to abut against the end surface of the second flanged member when assembled together with said corresponding second flange member, the outermost abutment point being the abutment point situated farthest in the radial direction from the central axis of the first flanged member,

said load transferring surface has an innermost abutment point in a cross section of the first flanged member, the innermost abutment point configured to abut against the end surface of the second flanged member when assembled together with said corresponding second flange member, the innermost abutment point being the abutment point situated nearest in the radial direction from the central axis of the first flanged member; and

a boring passing through the end surface of the first flanged member at a radial distance from a central axis of the first flanged member greater than the radial distance from the central axis of the first flanged member to the innermost abutment point, and less than the radial distance from the central axis of the first flanged member to the outermost abutment point,

wherein the load transferring surface of the first flanged member faces the load transferring surface of the second flanged member before assembly and is inclined in the radial direction outwards to form an angle in radial cross-section, the angle being such that a distance between the two load transferring surfaces increases in the radial direction outwards, said inclined load transferring surfaces being concave.

12. (Previously Presented) The joint according to claim 11, wherein the first and second flanged members each have a concave load transferring surface.

13. - 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The joint according to claim 11, wherein said load transferring surfaces of each of the first and second flanged members [[is]] <u>are</u> configured to directly contact the load transferring surface of the remaining flanged member.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~flanged member~~ joint according to claim [[1]] 11, wherein the at least the portion of the first load transferring surface in the unstressed condition that is concave comprises a majority of the first load transferring surface.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~flanged member~~ joint according to claim [[1]] 11, wherein the second flanged member is identical with the first flanged member.